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# Message Text

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54
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 IGA-01

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /042 W
---------- 066881
O R 261240Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4068
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3739

JAKARTA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, LA, US
SUBJ: FY 1976 AID PROGRAM

1. THE COUNTRY TEAM IS VERY MUCH CONCERNED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PRESENT AN AID PROGRAM FOR FY76 TO CONGRESS ON JUNE 5. IT SEEMS TO US THAT EITHER IT WILL BE GENEROUS, IN WHICH CASE THE PL WILL BE CONFIRMED IN THEIR VIEW THAT THEY CAN KICK THE U.S. AROUND WITH IMPUNITY, OR IT WILL BE SEVERELY LIMITED AND FROM THE PL'S POINT OF VIEW ITS ECONOMIC WORTH MIGHT NOT BALANCE THE POLITICAL COSTS OF MAINTAINING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

2. THERE ARE TWO FURTHER DIFFICULTIES. FIRST, OUR USAID MISSION IS STILL FIGHTING ITS WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE AND WHILE WE HAVE RECEIVED THE OUTLINES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S THINKING ON THE MANAGEMENT AND NATURE OF FUTURE U.S. AID, THERE HAVE BEEN NO SPECIFIC DISCUS-SIONS ON THE MATTER AND WE CERTAINLY DO NOT RECOMMEND ANY NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME IN THIS CLIMATE. THUS, WE SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW ON WHAT BASIS WE COULD PROVIDE AID TO LAOS NEXT YEAR. SECONDLY, SINCE WE HAVE NOT
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DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE PGNU, IT IS VERY DIFFI-

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CULT IN THE ABSTRACT TO FORMULATE AN AID PROGRAM.
OUT SENSE IS THAT THE PGNU SHOULD BE FORCED TO RECOGNIZE
ITS NEEDS FOR AID AND COME TO US WITH A CLEAR STATEMENT
OF THESE NEEDS. THEY SOULD BE THE "DEMANDEUR." WE
SEE NO REASON IN TERMS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PGNU
WHY WE SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN FORMULATING A PROGRAM
WHICH WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED WITH THEM.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S SERIOUS PROBLEM
IN PRESENTING ITS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1976 WITHOUT
A PROGRAM FOR LAOS. NEVERTHELESS, IT SEEMS TO US A
MORE HONEST AND MORE PERSUASIVE APPROACH TO CONGRESS
IF CONGRESS WERE INFORMED THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THE
PRESENT TURMOIL IN LAOS IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO
FORMULATE A PROGRAM. WE WOULD SAY WE HOPED TO MAINTAIN
COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH PGNU AND IN A
SITUATION PERMITTING AID TO THIS COUNTRY. HOWEVER,
NEGOTIATIONS AND STUDIES ON THIS SUBJECT WILL TAKE
SOME TIME AND WE WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE THE POSSIBILITY
OF GOING BACK TO CONGRESS AT A SUBSEQUENT DATE ON AN
AID PROGRAM FOR LAOS. THE EXECUTIVE COULD, FOR INSTANCE,
SEEK A CEILING OF PERHAPS 25 TO 30 MILLION DOLLARS
IN THE AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION AND STATE THAT WE WOULD
PROPOSE A PROGRAM WHEN WE JUDGED IT JUSTIFIABLE AND WE
HAD HAD APPROPRIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PGNU, MAKING
CLEAR THAT OUR WILLINGNESS ACTIVELY TO SEEK SUCH AUTHORI-
ZATION WAS ENTIRELY CONTINGENT ON PGNU BEHAVIOR.
CHAPMAN

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